



May 11, 2017

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: **Notice of Ex Parte Presentation, *In the Matter of Restoring Internet Freedom, MB Docket No. 17-108; In the Matter of Promoting the Availability of Diverse and Independent Sources of Video Programming, MB Docket No. 16-41***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Writers Guild of America, West, Inc. (“WGAW”) submits this letter summarizing a meeting held with FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and David Grossman, Chief of Staff to Commissioner Clyburn on May 10, 2017 at the WGAW offices in Los Angeles. The following individuals attended the meeting for the WGAW: Allison Abner, Amy Berg, Leanne Bowen, Elias Davis, Maria Maggenti, Glen Mazzara, Howard A. Rodman, Shawn Ryan, Thania St. John, Ellen Stutzman, Corrina Freedman, Marvin Vargas, Garrett Andrew Schneider, Tiffany Slater, Laura Blum-Smith and Jennifer Suh.

In the meeting, WGAW members highlighted the important role the open Internet has played in the dramatic growth of video programming, which has increased both content competition and consumer choice. Guild members also explained how a free and open Internet has allowed traditionally marginalized voices to bypass content gatekeepers and reach viewers directly. As free speech advocates, Guild members discussed the importance of preventing a handful of powerful companies from controlling the flow of information over the Internet. WGAW members noted their continued support for classification of broadband providers under Title II of the Communications Act as the strongest legal authority for Open Internet rules. With increased video competition online, ISPs, many of which are also video programming distributors, have strong incentives and the ability to engage in anti-competitive behavior. As such, the WGAW expressed its strong opposition to the proposed weakening of the Open Internet order enacted in 2015.

The WGAW also discussed its support for the Commission's notice of proposed rulemaking on diverse and independent programming, which would address the harmful effects of unconditional most favored nation clauses and unreasonable alternative distribution method provisions that independent programmers are often required to sign as a condition of carriage.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this letter is being filed via ECFS, and a copy will be provided by email to the individual listed below. Please contact me with any questions regarding this notice.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Corrina Freedman
Political Director
Writers Guild of America, West, Inc.

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
David Grossman